

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, August 04, 2009

Teri N. Pope
770-718-3924 office
404-274-6436 cell

OAKWOOD, Ga.

**TOMORROW NEW EXIT RAMP OPENING AND
TRAFFIC SHIFT – OVERNIGHT PAVING CONTINUES**

WHEN: Tuesday, August 4

WHERE: I-985 northbound from south of State Route (SR) 53/Mundy Mill Road to SR 13/Atlanta Highway and the exit ramp from I-985 north to SR 13/Atlanta Highway

WHAT: I-985 north was shifted over October 16, 2008 so crews could rebuild the interstate bridge over SR 53. The bridge work will be finished and traffic will shift back to its original location tomorrow. At the same time, crews will open the new exit ramp from I-985 north to SR 13/Atlanta Highway.

“As I-985 north traffic crosses SR 53, the new ramp exits to the right and will lead to SR 13/Atlanta Highway. If you want to exit to Atlanta Highway, you should be in the right lane of 985 north. Please slow down, especially tomorrow as we shift traffic and open the new ramp. We will have to slow traffic on I-985 to make these changes. So you can expect delays mid-morning tomorrow as this changes take place,” explained Russell McMurry, DOT District Engineer.

Overnight paving continues. Crews are adding the top layer of asphalt to the roadway and permanently striping the new asphalt five nights a week. Work is planned Sundays through Thursdays starting at 7 p.m. and working overnight to 6 a.m. Once the inside lane is finished crews will work on the outside lane.

As paving finishes, three lanes will be opened in each direction of SR 53. Two new and longer left turn lanes from SR 53 east to I-985 north will open. One of the new, longer left turn lanes from SR 53 west to I-985 south will open as well. The second left turn lane from SR 53 west to I-985 south will open after I-985 south traffic is shifted back to its original location later this summer.

Once paving is complete on SR 53, crews will move to SR 13/Atlanta Highway to pave overnights. “Last week the weather did not cooperate with us. We are planning to work every night this week except Friday and Saturday. It is doubtful paving on SR 13 will be finished before school starts on the 10th,” said McMurry.

Weekday work continues on I-985 south from 9:30 a. m. to 3:30 p.m. as weather permits. The left or inside lane will be closed starting at the Elachee Bridge to SR 53. Crews will be building and paving shoulders and repairing barrier wall. This work is expected to take about a month. Crews will then work northbound in the same area doing the same work.

“We are still on target to have everything finished on this project except for punch list work by Labor Day. Thank you for your patience as we work,” concluded McMurry, DOT District Engineer.

Delays are expected in the work zone. Please avoid the work zone if possible.

Motorists are advised to slow down and use extra caution in the work zone. Speed limits have been reduced and will be strictly enforced. City of Oakwood Police will be on scene.

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at www.511ga.org.

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